

5. Public Notice

Each local education agency liaison for homeless children and youths, designated under paragraph (1)(j)(ii), shall ensure that –

- *The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;*

[722(g)(6)(A)(iv)]

- *Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is disseminated where such children and youths receive services under this Act such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;*

[722(g)(6)(A)(v)]

5. Public Notice

- Ensure that parents are informed of all transportation services and that assistance to access transportation services is provided.
- Post educational rights of homeless children and youth in all schools.
- Post educational rights of homeless children and youth in the community.
- Inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates of the duties of the liaison.
- Collaborate with state coordinator, community service providers, and school personnel.

5. Public Notice

Student Rights

Children and Youth considered “homeless” have the right to:

- Stay in “school of origin,” even if they move. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Enroll in a new school without proof of residency, immunizations, records, etc.
- Receive transportation to their “school of origin.”
- Receive all the school services they need.
- Have disagreements with schools settled quickly.
- Go to the school they choose while disagreements are settled.

Information for Parents

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then, your preschool-aged and school-aged children have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

Your children have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. They must be given access to the same public education, including preschool education, provided to other children.
- Continue in the school they attended before you became homeless or the school they last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. If a school sends your child to a school other than the one you request, the school must provide you with a written explanation and offer you the right to appeal the decision.
- Receive transportation to the school they attended before your family became homeless or the school they last attended, if you or a guardian request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless. Children cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrolling your children.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other children served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education (see phone number below) for help in enrolling your child in a new school or arranging for your child to continue in his or her former school. (Or, someone at a shelter, social services office, or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact.)
- Contact the school and provide any information you think will assist the teachers in helping your child adjust to new circumstances.
- Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Local Area Contacts:

State Coordinator:

If you need further assistance, call the
National Center for Homeless Education
at the toll-free HelpLine number:

1-800-308-2145



Información para Padres

Si su familia vive bajo una de las siguientes condiciones:

- en un albergue, motel, vehículo o parque para acampar
- en la calle o al aire libre
- en un edificio abandonado, remolque-residencia (trailer) u otro alojamiento inadecuado
- compartiendo una vivienda con otra familia o algún pariente a causa de no poder encontrar alojamiento o por falta de recursos económicos

Entonces, sus niños de edad preescolar y escolar tienen ciertos derechos y protecciones bajo el Acta de Asistencia Educativa para "Los Sin Hogar" de McKinney-Vento (McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act).

Sus niños tienen el derecho de:

- asistir a la escuela, no importa donde vivan o qué tanto tiempo hayan vivido allí. Tienen el privilegio de acceso a la misma educación pública y deben ser proveídos de los mismos servicios que se ofrecen a los otros niños que tienen hogar; incluyendo programas de educación pre-escolar;
- seguir asistiendo a la escuela que asistieron antes de llegar a quedarse sin hogar o a la última escuela que asistieron, si esto es su deseo y es práctico. Si un empleado de una escuela envía sus niños a una escuela aparte de la escuela solicitada, ésta persona tiene que dar por escrito una explicación de la acción tomada y ofrecerles la oportunidad de apelar la decisión.
- recibir servicios de transportación a la escuela en donde asistieron antes de llegar a quedarse sin hogar o a la última escuela que asistieron si ustedes o un guardián de los niños pide tales servicios.
- asistir a la escuela y participar en programas y actividades escolares con niños que tienen hogar. Los niños no pueden estar separados del plan escolar normal y regular a causa de que se encuentran sin hogar.
- inscribirse en una escuela sin tener que proveer ninguna dirección de domicilio permanente. Las escuelas no están autorizadas para requerir ninguna prueba de residencia que pueda impedir o retrasar la inscripción de niños en la escuela.
- inscribirse en una escuela y asistir a sus clases mientras que la escuela haga los trámites necesarios para obtener los archivos escolares, los datos de inmunizaciones, o cualquier otro documento necesario para inscribirse.
- inscribirse y asistir a clases en la escuela seleccionada mientras que la escuela y ustedes busquen resolver una disputa sobre la escuela seleccionada. (Cada distrito escolar tiene una persona asignada como el oficial de intercomunicación para los niños y jóvenes sin hogar que ayudará a los jóvenes a resolver estas disputas cuando falta la presencia de los padres.)
- estar proveídos de los mismos programas y servicios especiales, si son necesarios, que se ofrecen a los demás estudiantes que tienen hogar y están recibiendo estos servicios.
- recibir transporte escolar a la escuela y a los programas escolares.

Cuando cambien de residencia, deben de hacer lo siguiente:

- comunicarse con la persona asignada como el oficial de intercomunicación para los niños y jóvenes sin hogar del distrito escolar (vea los datos de contacto al pie de esta columna) para ayuda en inscribir su hijo/a en una nueva escuela o para hacer los arreglos necesarios para que puedan seguir en la escuela donde habían asistido. (Empleados de los albergues, de los servicios sociales en su comunidad, o de la escuela pueden dirigirles a la persona con quien se deben comunicar.)
- comunicarse con la escuela y proveer cualquier información que usted piensa será útil a los maestros para ayudar a los niños hacer los ajustes a sus nuevas circunstancias.
- pedir al oficial de intercomunicación para los niños y jóvenes sin hogar, los empleados del albergue, o a los trabajadores sociales asistencia con ropa y útiles escolares, si es necesario.

Contacto Local:

Coordinador Estatal:

Si necesita ayuda adicional, llame al Centro Nacional de Educación para "Los Sin Hogar" (National Center for Homeless Education) al número de ayuda gratis:

1-800-308-2145



Information for School-Aged Youth

If you live in any of the following situations:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground
- On the street
- In an abandoned building, trailer, or other inadequate accommodations, or
- Doubled up with friends or relatives because you cannot find or afford housing

Then, you have certain rights or protections under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

You have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where you live or how long you have lived there. You must be given access to the same public education provided to other students.
- Continue in the school you attended before you became homeless or the school you last attended, if that is your choice and is feasible. The school district's local liaison for homeless education must assist you, if needed, and offer you the right to appeal a decision regarding your choice of school if it goes against your wishes.
- Receive transportation to the school you attended before you became homeless or the school you last attended, if you request such transportation.
- Attend a school and participate in school programs with students who are not homeless. Students cannot be separated from the regular school program because they are homeless.
- Enroll in school without giving a permanent address. Schools cannot require proof of residency that might prevent or delay school enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records or any other documents required for enrollment.
- Enroll and attend classes in the school of your choice even while the school and you seek to resolve a dispute over enrollment.
- Receive the same special programs and services, if needed, as provided to all other students served in these programs.
- Receive transportation to school and to school programs.

When you move, you should do the following:

- Contact the school district's local liaison for homeless education (see phone number below) for help in enrolling in a new school or arranging to continue in your former school. (Or, someone at a shelter, social services office, or the school can direct you to the person you need to contact.)
- Tell your teachers anything that you think they need to know to help you in school.
- Ask the local liaison for homeless education, the shelter provider, or a social worker for assistance with clothing and supplies, if needed.

Local Area Contacts:

State Coordinator:

If you need further assistance, call the
National Center for Homeless Education
at the toll-free HelpLine number:

1-800-308-2145



Información para Jóvenes de Edad Escolar

Si usted vive bajo una de las siguientes condiciones:

- en un albergue, motel, vehículo, o parque para acampar
- en la calle o al aire libre
- en un edificio abandonado, remolque-residencia (trailer) u otro alojamiento inadecuado
- compartiendo una vivienda con otra familia o algún pariente a causa de no poder encontrar alojamiento o por falta de recursos económicos

Entonces, usted tiene ciertos derechos y protecciones bajo el Acta de Asistencia Educativa para "Las Personas Sin Hogar" de McKinney-Vento (McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act).

Usted tiene el derecho de:

- asistir a la escuela, no importa donde vive o qué tanto tiempo haya vivido allí. Tiene el privilegio de acceso a la misma educación pública y debe ser proveído de los mismos servicios que se ofrecen a los otros estudiantes que no se encuentran sin hogar.
- seguir asistiendo a la escuela en donde asistió antes de llegar a quedarse sin hogar o a la última escuela que asistió, si esto es su deseo y es práctico. El oficial de intercomunicación para los niños y jóvenes sin hogar del distrito escolar tiene que ayudarlo, si es necesario, y tiene que darle la oportunidad de apelar la decisión tocante adonde asistirá a la escuela si la decisión va en contra de sus deseos.
- recibir servicios de transportación a la escuela en donde asistió antes de llegar a quedarse sin hogar o a la última escuela en donde asistió, si usted pide tales servicios.
- asistir a la escuela y participar en programas y actividades escolares con estudiantes que tienen hogar. Los jóvenes no pueden estar separados del plan escolar normal y regular porque esten sin hogar.
- inscribirse en una escuela sin tener que proveer ninguna dirección de domicilio permanente. Las escuelas no están autorizadas a requerir ninguna prueba de residencia que pueda impedir o retrasar su inscripción en la escuela.
- inscribirse en una escuela y asistir a sus clases mientras que la escuela haga los trámites necesarios para obtener los archivos escolares, los datos de inmunizaciones, o cualquier otro documento necesario para inscribirse.
- inscribirse y asistir a clases en la escuela que usted selecciona mientras que la escuela y usted busquen resolver una disputa sobre la escuela seleccionada. (Cada distrito escolar tiene una persona asignada como el oficial de intercomunicación para los niños y jóvenes sin hogar quien los ayudará a resolver estas disputas cuando falta la presencia de los padres.)
- estar proveídos de los mismos programas y servicios especiales, si son necesarios, que se ofrecen a los demás estudiantes que tienen hogar y están recibiendo estos servicios.
- recibir transporte escolar a la escuela y a los programas escolares.

Cuando cambie de residencia, debe hacer lo siguiente:

- comunicarse con la persona asignada como el oficial de intercomunicación para los niños y jóvenes sin hogar del distrito escolar (vea los datos de contacto al pie de esta columna) para ayuda en inscribirse en una nueva escuela o para hacer los arreglos necesarios para que pueda seguir en la escuela donde habla asistido. (Empleados de los albergues, de los servicios sociales en su comunidad, o de la escuela puede dirigirles a la persona con quien se deben comunicar.)
- comunicales a sus maestros cualquier información que usted piensa sea necesaria para que ellos puedan ayudarlo en la escuela.
- pedir al oficial de intercomunicación para los niños y jóvenes sin hogar, los empleados del albergue, o a los trabajadores sociales asistencia con ropa y útiles escolares, si es necesario.

Contacto Local:

Coordinador Estatal:

Si necesita ayuda adicional, llame al Centro Nacional de Educación para "Los Sin Hogar" (National Center for Homeless Education) al número de ayuda gratis:

1-800-308-2145



NCHE PRODUCT ORDER FORM



Each person may order up to 25 of most products per school year at no charge (exception noted below). For orders above the product limit, call the NCHE helpline at 1-800-308-2145. NCHE products can also be ordered online at www.serve.org/nche/online_order.php.

Order Information

Product	Language	Quantity
Parent Pack Pocket Folder	English	
	Spanish	
Parent Brochure: What You Need to Know to Help Your Child Do Well in School	English	
	Spanish	
NCHE Brochure: Linking Resources for Homeless Children and Youth	English	
	Spanish	
Educational Rights Poster for Parents	English	
	Spanish	
Educational Rights Poster for Youth	English	
	Spanish	
Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit on cd-rom <i>(orders are limited to 1, but the file may be copied and distributed freely)</i>	English	
Homeless Education Awareness Folder	English	
Connecting Schools and Displaced Students Handbook Series		
After the Storm (A Handbook for Parents)	English	
Disaster Relief Agencies and Schools (A Handbook for Local Liaisons and State Coordinators)	English	
From the School Office to the Classroom (A Handbook for Local Liaisons, Enrollment Staff, and District Administrators)	English	
School as a Safety Net (A Handbook for Relief Agency Staff and Volunteers)	English	

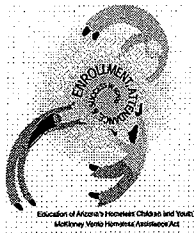
Customer Information

Name		
Title		
Organization		
Address 1		
Address 2		
City	State	Zip
Phone	E-mail	

Mail or Fax Order Form to:

NCHE at SERVE
P.O. Box 5367
Greensboro, NC 27435
Fax 336-315-7457

National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE
Toll-free helpline: 1-800-308-2145 www.serve.org/nche



The McKinney Vento Act: Parent/Student Rights for Those in Transition

Arizona public schools shall provide an educational environment that treats all students with dignity and respect. Every student experiencing homelessness or transition shall have access to the same free and appropriate educational opportunities as students who are not homeless. This commitment to the educational rights of homeless children, youth, and unaccompanied youth, applied to all services, programs, and activities provided or made available.

A student may be considered eligible for services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if he or she is presently living:

- In temporary shared housing, a shelter, or transitional living program
- In a hotel/motel, campground, or similar situation due to lack of alternatives
- At a bus station, park, car, or abandoned building
- In temporary or transitional foster care placement

According to the McKinney-Vento Act, eligible students have rights to:

Immediate enrollment: *Documentation and immunization records cannot serve as a barrier to the enrollment in school.*

School Selection: *Eligible students have a right to select from the following schools:*

- The school he/she attended when permanently housed (School of Origin)
- The school in which he/she was last enrolled (School of Origin)
- The school in the attendance area in which the student currently resides (School of Residency)
- In Maricopa County, Thomas J. Pappas School

Remain enrolled *in his/her selected school for the duration of homelessness, or until the academic year upon which they are permanently housed.*

Participate in programs *for which they are eligible, including Title I tutoring programs, Free Lunch in schools with the, National School Lunch Program, Head Start & Even Start Preschool Programs.*

Transportation Services: *A McKinney-Vento eligible student attending his/her School of Origin has a right to transportation to and from the School of Origin.*

Dispute Resolution: *If you disagree with school officials about enrollment, transportation, or fair treatment of a homeless child or youth, you may file a complaint with the school district. The school district must respond and attempt to resolve it quickly. During the dispute, the student must be immediately enrolled in the school and provided transportation until the matter is resolved. The McKinney Vento Liaison will assist you in making decision, providing notice of any appeal process, and filling out dispute forms.*

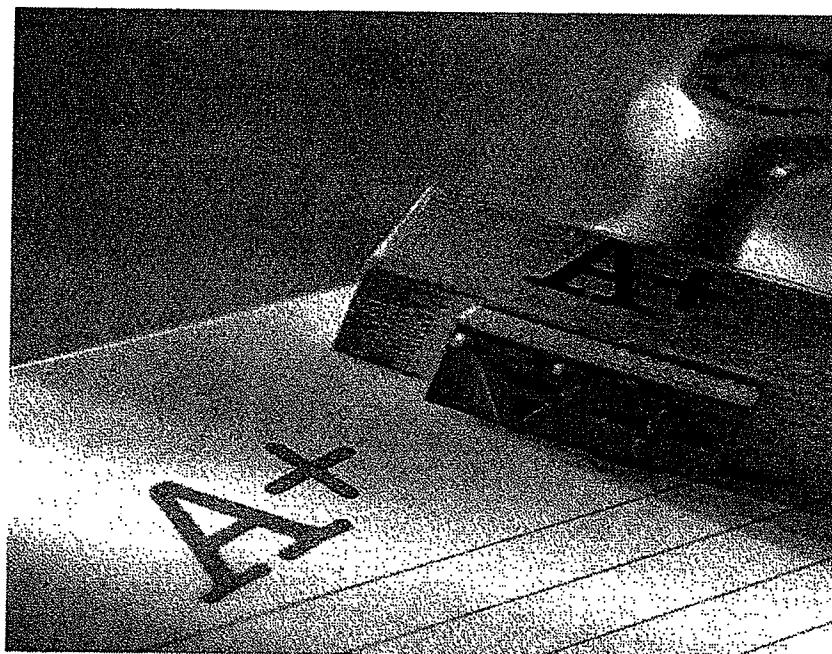
For more information, refer to
<http://www.ade.az.gov/schooleffectiveness/specialpops/homeless> or contact:

Frank Migali
Homeless Education Coordinator
Arizona Department of Education
1535 W. Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 542-4963
Frank.migali@azed.gov

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

Educating Homeless Children and Youth:

The 2005 Guide To Their Rights



1411 K Street, NW, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005
202-638-2535

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. NLCHP serves as the legal arm of the national movement to alleviate, prevent, and end homelessness through impact litigation, public policy, and public education.

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ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

More than 1.35 million children and youth experience homelessness each year. These young people may be living on the streets, but they are most often in shelters or temporarily living with family or friends after losing housing or having financial problems.

THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

Children and youth experiencing homelessness often have problems enrolling and participating in school. As a result, Congress passed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in 1987. This law gives homeless children and youth the right to:



Stay in their school even if they move;



Enroll in a new school without proof of residency, immunizations, school records or other papers;



Get transportation to school;



Get all the school services they need; and

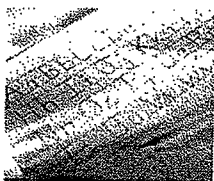


Challenge decisions made by schools and districts.

HELPING STUDENTS WITH SCHOOL NEEDS

Despite McKinney-Vento, homeless children and youth sometimes need help enrolling and participating in school. Various individuals can, and should, step forward to provide assistance. Parents, relatives, family friends, school and school district personnel, shelter providers, youth program workers, social workers, advocates, and the students themselves can all play a role in helping young people get an education. If you are such a person, this booklet will get you started.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Q & A: DEFINING HOMELESSNESS..... 1

Who McKinney-Vento covers

Unaccompanied youth

Children and youth “awaiting foster care placement”

Migrant and immigrant students



Q & A: SCHOOL DISTRICT RESOURCES 3

School district personnel that can help homeless students

Responsibilities of homeless liaisons

Other help provided by homeless liaisons



Q & A: SCHOOLS OF ORIGIN 5

Benefits of remaining in a school of origin

How McKinney-Vento can help students remain in schools of origin

How long students can stay in their school of origin

Feasibility considerations for attending schools of origin

Transportation to and from schools of origin



Q & A: ENROLLING IN NEW SCHOOLS..... 7

Attending local schools

Special rules for enrolling homeless students

Obtaining documents needed for enrollment

What happens if documents cannot be obtained

State or local rules excluding students without records

Separate schools for homeless students



Q & A: SPECIAL SERVICES..... 10

Equal access to helpful services

What services are available



Q & A: DISPUTES AND DISAGREEMENTS 12

Settling disagreements between schools and families

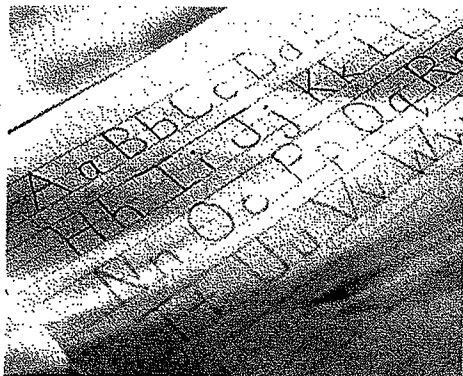
If the school district doesn't settle the disagreement



HELPFUL RESOURCES..... 14

National Homeless Education Advocacy Organizations

State Coordinators




Q & A: DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

Q: WHO IS COVERED BY THE MCKINNEY- VENTO ACT?

A: Any child or youth without a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence is considered “homeless” under the law. This includes students who are:

- 🔑 Living with a friend, relative or someone else because they lost their home or can't afford a home;
- 🔑 Staying in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground because they have nowhere else to go;
- 🔑 Living in a shelter, including emergency or transitional shelters, domestic violence shelters, and runaway and homeless youth shelters;
- 🔑 Staying in substandard housing;
- 🔑 Living in places not ordinarily used for sleeping, including cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings, or bus or train stations;
- 🔑 Awaiting foster care placement; or

 Abandoned in a hospital.

Q: ARE YOUTH ON THEIR OWN COVERED BY MCKINNEY-VENTO?

A: Yes. McKinney-Vento protects homeless youth who are not living with a parent or guardian. The law calls such students “unaccompanied youth.” These young people may include those who:

- Were asked to leave home by parent;
- Left home with the consent of a parent;
- Have no formal custody papers or arrangements while their parents are in jail, the hospital, or a rehabilitation center; or
- Ran away from home.

Youth on their own cannot be kept out of school because they do not have a parent or guardian to enroll them.

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “AWAITING FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT?”

A: The law allows each community to decide which children should be placed in this category. School districts often include young people who are in the

custody of a social services agency and living in an emergency shelter while waiting to be placed with a family.

Q: DO ANY SPECIAL RULES APPLY TO MIGRANT OR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS?

A: No. Public schools must serve all migrant and immigrant children and youth. This is true even if the family or student is undocumented. Migrant and immigrant children who fit into one of the homeless categories are covered under McKinney-Vento.



**Q & A:
SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASSISTANCE**

Q: DOES MY SCHOOL DISTRICT HAVE SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP HOMELESS CHILDREN WITH SCHOOL ISSUES?

A: Yes. Every school district must have a person in charge of making sure students who are homeless can enroll and succeed in school. This person is called a “liaison” or a

“coordinator.” Families and youth can call their school district’s central office or their State Coordinator to get their Liaison’s name and phone number. The contact information for the state coordinators is at the end of this booklet.

Q: IN WHAT WAYS DO LIAISONS HELP STUDENTS?

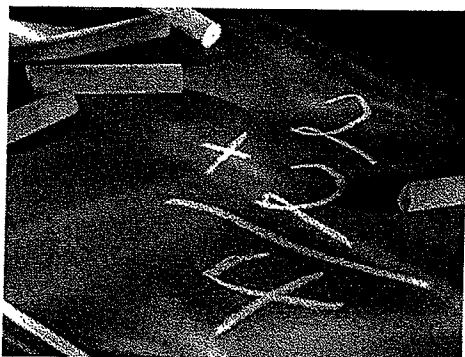
A: According to the McKinney-Vento Act, liaisons must:

- Locate homeless children and youth in their districts, making sure they immediately enroll and have an equal opportunity to succeed in school.
- Make sure that young people receive appropriate services, including transportation, preschool, special education, English language learner services, vocational education, and similar services.
- Make referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, or other care providers.
- Publicly post the education rights of homeless children and youth in places such as schools and family shelters.
- Assist unaccompanied youth with enrollment, transportation, and disagreements with schools.
- Help students get immunizations and immunization records.
- Make sure that disagreements between students

and schools are resolved.

Q: ARE LIAISONS HELPFUL IN OTHER WAYS?

A: Yes. Liaisons can provide useful information. They know about any special programs offered to homeless students. For example, districts may provide tutoring, mentoring, after school activities, or school supplies.



**Q & A:
SCHOOLS OF ORIGIN**

Q: IS IT A GOOD IDEA FOR STUDENTS TO STAY IN THE SAME SCHOOL AFTER THEY LOSE HOUSING?

A: Yes. Students often benefit from staying in one school while they are homeless. They are less likely to fall behind in their school work. They can also find comfort with familiar teachers, friends, and activities.

Q: CAN MCKINNEY-VENTO HELP STUDENTS STAY IN THEIR SCHOOLS?

A: Yes. Children and youth in homeless situations have the right to stay in the schools they went to before they lost their housing, or to stay at whatever school they were enrolled in last. These schools are called "schools of origin."

Q: HOW LONG CAN A STUDENT ATTEND A SCHOOL OF ORIGIN?

A: Students can stay in their school of origin for the entire time they are homeless. When they find permanent housing, they can continue in a school of origin until the end of the school year.

Q: ARE STUDENTS ALWAYS ABLE TO GO TO A SCHOOL OF ORIGIN?

A: No. If it is not "feasible" for a student to stay at his or her school of origin, he or she may have to transfer. For example, if a student moves so far away that it would be harmful for the child to travel that far to school, it may be best for the student to change schools.

Q: WHAT IF A STUDENT NEEDS TRANSPORTATION TO THE SCHOOL OF ORIGIN?